

British parent Society. The last number of the *British Medical Journal* makes special mention of the probability of the early completion of this project, and we hope it may not be disappointed. Now is the time to discuss the advisability of carrying this idea out and the manner in which it is to receive practical effect. We would therefore urge upon the President and other officers of the Canada Association to take the matter at once into consideration, and to communicate with the Home authorities so that, before the next annual meeting at Ottawa, we may be in a position to go prepared to decide either to remain as we are, or to take at once what steps are necessary to secure affiliation with the British Association. We have little doubt but that the decision will be in favor of union with our British brethren.

THE DEBATE ON ANTISEPTICS.

A largely attended and important meeting of the South London District of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held at St. Thomas's Hospital on the 3d ult., for the discussion of the subject of antiseptic surgery. Mr. John Wood, the President of the Branch, occupied the chair. The discussion was opened by Mr. William MacCormac, of St. Thomas' Hospital, who gave an account of several valuable cases illustrating the value of the antiseptic system. Mere mention of these is useless, but if the circumstances attending each are carefully considered they cannot fail to lend strong support to the theory he holds. An able speech is concluded with the following words :—"To John Hunter we owe our idea of the harmlessness of subcutaneous injuries, and all the great advantages to surgery that are derived from the application of this knowledge ; and if in time our ordinary surgery shall become as safe as subcutaneous surgery, this we shall owe to Lister." Mr. Bryant followed, contending that he had never seen reports of cases treated by Listerism which could not be equalled from the ordinary book of the Hospital Surgeon. Messrs. Macnamara, Barwell, and Spencer Wells all spoke on the side of antiseptics. The former gentleman alluded to the recent successes in cataract-